

REMARKS

Claim 1 was pending in the Application. After entry of this amendment, Claims 2-21 are pending. Claims 2-21 were added and then Claim 1 was canceled without Prejudice. Applicants submit this Amendment in order to further clarify the invention described and claimed, without regard to any prior art.

Applicant submits that the Claims as amended are supported by the application as filed and do not add new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner precisely identify teachings or suggestions in the prior art that would preclude patentability of the pending claims in the event that the Examiner is not in a position to allow the claims now pending.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**". Attached hereto is a clean version of the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**PENDING CLAIMS**".

The Application being in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

///

///

///

///

///

///

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-70543-3/RMA/KRG).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/03

By: R. M. Ananian

R. Michael Ananian, Reg. No. 35,050
Filed Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.34(a)

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 3400
San Francisco, CA 94111-4187
Telephone: (415) 781-1989
Facsimile: (415) 398-3249

(1110594)

1 **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

2 1. (Canceled)

3
4 2. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any
5 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

6 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
7 hardware box of the computer;

8 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
9 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
10 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
11 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
12 repair; and

13 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
14 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
15 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
16 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
17 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
18 the computer,

19 wherein the signal is generated by a user altering the state of a physical switch
20 different from an on-off switch of the computer and exposed on an exterior surface of the
21 main computer hardware box of the computer.

22
23 3. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software
24 comprises:

25 automatically repairing software on the first boot device.

26
27 4. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of automatically repairing
28 software comprises:

29 automatically repairing software on the first boot device without further direction
30 from the user.

31
32 5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of automatically repairing
33 software comprises:

34 repairing software on the first boot device according to preset preferences.

1
2 6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the repairing according to preset
3 preferences comprises:

4 repairing according to whether
5 to recover data;
6 to run a virus check;
7 to reformat the first boot device;
8 to revert to a backup; or
9 to run diagnostics.

10
11 7. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software
12 comprises:

13 reformatting the first boot device; and
14 then copying software onto the first boot device.

15
16 8. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of repairing software
17 comprises:

18 resetting parameters in a persistent memory; and
19 then copying software onto the first boot device.

20
21 9. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
22 directing a user to re-boot from the first boot device.

23
24 10. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein before the step of booting from the
25 second boot device, the following step is performed: installing software onto the second boot
26 device.

27
28 11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of installing software onto
29 the second boot device comprises one method from the following set of methods:

30 a. installing software onto the second boot device;
31 b. copying installed software onto the second boot device;
32 c. copying installation software onto the second boot device; and
33 d. writing onto the second boot device a version of an operating environment running
34 as a result of the boot from the first boot device.

1
2 12. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of installing software onto
3 the second boot device comprises one method from the following set of methods:

- 4 a. installing software onto the second boot device;
5 b. copying installed software onto the second boot device;
6 c. copying installation software onto the second boot device; and
7 d. writing onto the second boot device a template of an operating environment
8 running as a result of the boot from the first boot device.

9
10 13. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein after the step of installing and before
11 the step of booting from the second boot device, the following step is performed:
12 updating the software installed onto the second boot device.

13
14 14. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein after the step of installing and before
15 the step of booting from the second boot device, the following step is performed:
16 protecting the second boot device from further modification.

17
18 15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of protecting comprises one
19 of:
20 switching the second boot device to a state of unavailability; and
21 switching the second boot device to a read-only state.

22
23 16. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein before the step of repairing software
24 the following step is performed:
25 offering a user a choice of thoroughness of repair.

26
27 17. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein before the step of booting from the
28 second boot device, the following step is performed:
29 automatically monitoring an operating environment running as a result of the booting
30 from the first boot device.

31
32 18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
33 detecting an undesirable change in the operating environment; and
34 generating the signal indicating a need for repair in response to the detection.

1
2 19. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein before the step of booting from the
3 second boot device, the following step is performed:

4 automatically searching for boot devices.

5 20. (New) A method for a computer repairing itself to an operational status at any
6 time during operation, the method comprising the computer-executed steps of:

7 booting from a first hard disk drive boot device disposed within a main computer
8 hardware box of the computer;

9 then, in response to receiving a signal indicating a need for repair of the computer
10 during the booting or during any operating state, booting from a second hard disk drive boot
11 device; the second hard disk drive boot device being physically present within the main
12 computer hardware box of the computer prior to receiving the signal indicating a need for
13 repair; and

14 then repairing software on the first hard disk drive boot device while booted from the
15 second hard disk drive boot device and selectively either: (i) maintaining operation of the
16 computer from the second boot device to restore operational status of the computer during
17 repairing of the software on the first hard disk device, or (ii) changing to operation of the
18 computer from the second boot device to the first boot device to restore operational status of
19 the computer;

20 wherein before the step of repairing software the following step is performed:
21 offering a user a choice of thoroughness of repair selected from the set of repairs consisting
22 of a quick repair that re-installs or copies template software without first re-formatting, a
23 better repair that performs a high-level re-format before that copy or re-installation of
24 software, and a best repair that performs a low-level re-format before copying over or re-
25 installing software.

26 21. (New) A computer system comprising:

27 one or more peripheral devices including a means for communication, an coupling
28 member, and a capability for emitting light;

29 a receptacle mechanically coupled with said computer system for engaging said
30 coupling member of said peripheral device; and

31 a port for communicatively coupling said computer system and said peripheral
32 devices coupled with receptacle.
33
34